

A. F. U. BULLETIN

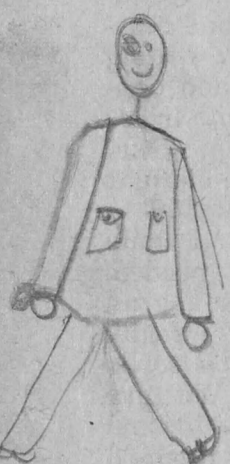
OFFICIAL ORGAN OF ALBERTA FARMERS' UNION

206 Agency Building, Edmonton, Alberta, Phone 25965

VOL. IV.

Edmonton, Alberta, March, 1944

NUMBER 3.



Praise the Lord, and Sign Our Petition


Yes, I'm a soldier settler,
One of the Bulldog breed
Fighting the fight of the under dog
Regardless of race or creed.

Way back in fifteen and sixteen,
Seventeen and eighteen too,
We carried the badge of the Maple Leaf
For the girls we loved — and YOU.

Surely the world at large and YOU
Know that we played our part.
Never downhearted and always game
Winning the way to your heart.

Now that we're old and down and out
Look back and see if we're worth
Your aid to help us Back the Attack
For a Veteran's share of the Earth.

A. J. S.



To Expired Subscribers

This letter is being sent out to those whose subscription have expired. We wish to bring it to the attention of all our readers so that they will not let their subscriptions expire.

DEAR SUBSCRIBER:-

We notice on checking up our lists that your subscription to the Alberta Farmers Union Bulletin has expired.

We are trying to give good service with our paper and think that it is very good value at 50c per year. Especially to those who are interested in all questions related to Agriculture, and we think this includes the big majority of the citizens of Canada.

As the war progresses the fundamental importance of Agriculture is being more and more recognized. Not only this, but practically all thinking people agree that any scheme for Post War Rehabilitation must, in order to be successful, be based on a prosperous Agriculture.

The Alberta Farmers Union is fighting for that objective.

Parity Prices for Farm Products would put farmers into a position of relative equality with all other branches of industry in regard to their financial income.

We are not looking to be in a position of advantage over any others.

The continued prosperity of all Canadians depends upon every individual having a sufficient income to be able to buy at least the decent necessities of life; and if the farmers get Parity Prices it means they will be good customers for the products of all other industries as well as being in a position to pay their taxes and pay fair wages for their hired help.

The Alberta Farmers Union is fighting for these things and through the medium of the A. F. U. Bulletin is trying to make these things known.

If you are interested in such fundamental matters you should buy our Bulletin and keep informed of the actions of the Union.

Every bona-fide farmer, man or woman should be a member of the Union and should see that at least one copy of the Bulletin goes to each home, so that there may be an informed and unified group of people all intelligently working towards the same end.

WE SHALL BE GLAD TO RECEIVE YOUR SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL IF YOU ARE INTERESTED.

Correspondence

RE SOLDIER SETTLERS

One of your delegates to the A. F. U. Convention at Edmonton last week, was George Connan, Jr. of Hazeldine, Alberta. Mr. Connan is also a soldier settler and it was he who moved the resolution which asked the Government to grant Clear Titles to Veterans of Great War I who still hold land under the S. S. Board. I actually wrote that resolution myself and I have others to be put before the Municipal Conventions of Saskatchewan and Manitoba. Our idea is to get as much publicity as possible. Our organization very much appreciates the support your Convention gave us last week by so unanimously standing behind us in passing that resolution. Am I to understand that you are willing to circulate our Petition for signatures and donations through your locals? How many locals have you, and how many forms would be needed? I have over a hundred printed copies of a circular letter left over from a delivery of over 300 to our Rural Municipal Councils last month. I could get as many more from same source if needed. Please consider these questions and give me an answer at your earliest opportunity, for I really think it is asking far too much from you to do all this for us. I am sending today to Western Producer, Saskatoon, an order to print additional thousand forms of petition, and I will forward you under separate cover a few to start on for I have less than a hundred left for our own immediate needs.

Again thanking you, Mr. Nichols for what you and your Alberta Farmers' Union has done for us.

I am, very since rely yours,

Alfred J. Sibley.

Sec'y Soldier Settlers Ass'n of Canada.

Moose Hill Local No. 444, Thorhild, Alta.

January 23rd, 1944.

As the meeting was opened H. S. Brown explained in a short speech the need of every farmer joining the Union. After the few words all that have not been members gave their names to the secretary and the one dollar fee. In a few minutes our Local enlarged to fourteen members and three subscribed to the A. F. U. Bulletin.

Moose Hill Local is in the drive for more new members and for the next meeting we expect every member to bring in a new member.

Wm. Koscielnuk, Sect'y.

Report from Alberta Radio Farm Forums

Following are the reports from Alberta of the Radio Farm Forum for November, December 1943, and January 1944:

Monday, November 29th, 1943.

Planning Prices and Controls

Yes, out here in the shadow of the Rocky Mountains farm people look to planning for the protection and improvement of their positions after the war. They are fearful of what may happen without it. They want planned cooperation between producers and consumers within the Dominion and some go so far as to suggest that with respect to exports of foods, in order to fully plan, the government should take complete control.

One conclusion upon which our listening groups almost are unanimous is, that in the days to follow the signing of the peace, in addition to ceiling prices, there must also be floor prices.

There must be no return, they say, to the ruinously low price levels of pre-war for farm products. Our groups are unanimous that hereafter the boards and commissions to be created for control and planning purposes must have in their personnel adequate representation of the operators of Canada's farms.

They want democracy in planning — not bureaucracy. Failure in the past to recognize producers in the creating of boards of control is the chief criticism existing here against the war-time planning program. In the future our listening groups demand, there shall be practical farmers acting not merely in advisory capacities regarding matters of policy but in the making of decisions.

Some of our groups, a few, maintain that due to price control during this war, the position of farmers has not been, and cannot be so long as the war lasts, as favourable as during the war of 1914-18.

In support of this contention these farm people point to the higher prices of farm commodities and the lower costs of the goods purchased during the years of the last war, and more important still the unlimited market then existing for everything farmers had to sell.

The listening groups reporting this viewpoint are located on our level, treeless prairie, and their reference to limitation of marketing applies to wheat — in all cases the chief, in many the only crop in 1942. Alberta grew more millions of bushels of wheat than could be marketed. This inability to market a commodity when produced is reflected throughout our listening group reports as Alberta's major farm problem.

Moreover some of those in this school of thought say that the farmers of this province were in stronger financial positions when war broke in 1914 than they were in 1939.

The main objection to price control here is that it was applied at a time when the prices of farm products were slowly commencing to rise after being unmercilessly battered down during the previous ten years.

But because of those ten terrible years of depression and because we have had price control during this war, a control which has prohibited the creating by farmers of financial reserves, the members of these groups join with others in this province in declaring that protection via control is a post-war necessity.

Monday, December 27th, 1943

HEALTH

Here in Alberta, this whole question of Health is a particularly keen one. It is particularly important too, for you see our distances are very great. It is not at all uncommon for an ailing or injured person to travel fifty miles or more to receive medical attention. Indeed in many, many cases the distances are much greater than that. The mileages rolled up each month by our rural doctors would amaze their fellow practitioners in the more densely populated farm regions of Canada. Then too, in Alberta we have been working for a good many years on this problem of bringing health facilities closer to our people. We have made creditable progress but much remains to be achieved. Let me give one or two listening group reports to show our present position.

Here is one from Mrs. Mary B. Pharis, Secretary of our Magrath unit. Magrath is in the extreme south of Alberta, a long established farm area now served with irrigation.

Mrs. Pharis says about seventy-five percent of her people carry doctors' contracts and have regular check-ups. School children received immunization. Mothers are eligible for pre-natal and post-natal examination. Mrs. Pharis further reports the operation of a municipal hospital district and the maintenance of their hospital by direct taxation. Contracts with the doctor she says, cost twenty-five dollars per year per family. Treatments cost one-half the regular prices.

Well, that is the situation in one of our older settled more favored rural districts, typical of others and representative perhaps of the peak of our Alberta achievement to date.

Where this degree of organization has not been undertaken some of the services are provi-

ded by out-door clinics conducted by the Provincial Department of Health, by privately owned hospitals and by independent doctors.

David Rattray, Jr., of our Wainwright group east of Edmonton and close to the Saskatchewan border, says that regular examination of the people in his district is very rare. John C. Warner of Tofield, about fifty miles east of Edmonton, says no special care is given mothers either before or after the births of their children, beyond that made possible by the Provincial government's maternity grants. And Miss Edith M. Hanson, secretary of our listening group at Viking, in the northern central part of settled Alberta, says that while under the Local Health Unit plan, school children are examined twice yearly and baby clinics are held monthly, no pre or post natal care is available unless the mothers go to their own doctors and make their own arrangements and pay their own bills.

Our Alberta Forum members are unanimous that there should be a National Health Plan; national in the fullest sense of the word, participated in by every resident of Canada irrespective of occupation, social standing or level or income.

The experience here in Alberta toward this objective, limited though it has been in comparison with an all inclusive national health plan, leads to the opinion too that the cost should be defrayed through federal taxation. In this way, our Alberta people emphasize, the people of all the regions of Canada will benefit equally. And concerning administration, here in Alberta the opinion is that this in large measure should be the responsibility of representatives of those being served. The medical profession, our groups say, should provide the technical guidance, the laity the vision of development.

And so you can plainly see what Alberta Forums think about Health Planning.

January 24th, 1944

FARM FINANCE

No matter how efficient the farmer, if he must sell his products below their cost of production, he will fail. That is the opinion of members of all Alberta Forum Groups, and from their own bitter experiences, many of these forum people in Alberta know too that efficiency often is tossed to the winds by the caprices of nature. Any man can make a flail, but one must have money to buy a threshing machine, says G. J. Nestman, reporting for our Vermilion group, located immediately east of Edmonton, and a large number of our groups indicate lack of finance — inability to fully equip and stock our farms as one of the important factors in the failures of otherwise efficient operators. J. M. Bentley for his North Edmonton group puts it this way:

"An efficient farmer could easily fail for want of sufficient capital because under present conditions and those that have obtained during the last decade, if a man has not the capital to buy good equipment and some stock, then no matter how well he knew how to farm, he could not do so, and would be classed a failure." With only a few exceptions our Alberta forums emphasize the inevitability of debt in farming — past and present. J. L. Lees, reporting for the Warner forum in the southern part of the province, said that few farmers can pay for their land when they take it over, and a successful and efficient farmer is not afraid of debt. John Warner, for the Tofield Forum in the central portion of Alberta says: Some of our most successful farmers made their reputations on borrowed money. Respecting the securing of credit, most of our Alberta Forums report that the sources are limited, particularly for farmers with no or insufficient collateral. They express the opinion too that in relation to the returns from agriculture during the past ten years, the costs of money are somewhat excessive. Most of the loans that are available are insufficient to meet the needs, our groups say. A long term credit program with rates of interest bearing some relationships to the annual earning capacities of the farms is what is wanted here, and many of our Alberta forums suggest these rates to be in the neighborhood of two and one-half percent. Availability of credit when it becomes a need when times are bad as well as when they are good through facilities backed by the governments and with the character of the applicant a determining factor even though he possess insufficient collateral is recommended as necessary to meet the situation existing in Alberta in years past and now. Alberta Forum opinion respecting credit unions is divided, due, no doubt, to the fact that in our rural areas their introduction has been recent. Those who see in them satisfactory mediums for farm financing point to the advantages of co-operative action in this agricultural field as in others and the lessons in thrift taught through the operation of credit unions. Those expressing reservations about this type of farm financing point to the inadequacy of the totals of the credit union loans when compared with the scale on which farming is conducted in this province. Here again long term credit is emphasized as the Alberta need.

— FOR SALE —

Choice quality Yorkshires from advance registered stock; weanlings, boars and gilts. My stock is from the best herds in Canada. For prices, etc. write H. Dallaire, Mallaig, Alta.

We hope all of our readers will take note of the following three articles reproduced from the Scottish Farmer of January 15th, 1944. They deserve earnest study because they are a striking illustration of the deplorable fact that whenever the interests of the farmers and finance are in conflict, the governments always consider the interests of finance first, and first and first.

UNITE!

(From "The Scottish Farmer" Jan. 15, 1944)

To say that all is not well on the farming front in England is considerably to understate the case. The English Farmers' Union is at loggerheads with the Minister over the question of prices. The view is widely held that Mr. Hudson has given a narrow and restricted interpretation of his pledge about costs and prices, and many branches of the industry feel that it has been badly let down. The Minister himself has probably not improved the general situation by plat-form utterances, and his scathing reference to "this wretched three millions" (the estimated cost of the award to English farmers) was rather unfortunate. So, once a general favourite over the Border, Mr. Hudson now finds himself becoming increasingly unpopular. Resentment is growing, the farmers, rightly enough, objecting to being treated like a naughty schoolboy caught with his finger in the jam. The worst feature of the whole business is that many farmers are losing confidence in Government promises and there have been several angry references already to the betrayal of 1921. Fears have already been expressed that the same thing will happen again after this war.

Into the merits (or demerits) of the dispute we do not propose to enter, but it is clear that the end of the story is not yet. We would, however, hazard the view that in other industries the affairs would have been handled differently, perhaps with greater courtesy. The difficulty from the farming angle is, of course, that the industry is not completely united and thus, as on this occasion, its sponsors are liable to be roughly handled when disagreement on fundamental questions is serious.

No farmer, or body of farmers, would think of going on strike — which is the feared weapon of other industries. Indeed they could not even if they so willed, for the business of farming must proceed. It is of the nature of things that this should be so. But surely this should indicate that farmers should be united if their voice is to be listened to with respect. The curious thing is that there is probably no great industry less united, for the average farmer is strangely individualistic in habit and outlook. Is this attitude to his own benefit or for the good of farm-

ing when so many great issues, of considerable importance to the future, lie just round the corner?

Surely if ever there was a time when farming should speak with a united voice, it is now. Co-operation has achieved wonders in other spheres of activity. It is doing remarkable things in the great world conflict and it is capable of equally valuable service on the agricultural front if given the opportunity. To make this possible the aim should be to make the Farmers' Union in both countries as nearly one hundred per cent representative as possible. Individual grievances and differences of opinion must be put aside, and the hands of the organization strengthened, if the voice of the industry is to be listened to with respect. Farming has been served well by a number of individuals who have given and are giving their time and ability to further the interests of the industry. Their example should be encouraged by a steady flow of adherents throughout the land. Many branches of agriculture are doing well at present. To maintain the prospect of reasonable prosperity, farmers must "get together" and that as quickly as possible.

British Government Betrays Farmer

Annual meetings of the branches of the National Farmers' Union and Chamber of Agriculture are taking place now, and Scots farmers are beginning to voice their views on the Government's breach of faith in the way they have chosen to handle the question of prices for agricultural products. In a former issue we commented on the Minister of Agriculture's defence of the Government's attitude. Anyone who desires a clear and concise reply to that defence should refer to Sir Cleveland Fyfe's radio talk last week, which will be found in the agriculture press. We need only reiterate that farmers on the faith of the 1940 pledge, did their bit. They delivered the goods at the prices fixed by the Government and have been much lauded for their success. They and their workers worked like slaves to do it. In many cases in order to get the work done the Government's minimum wage was entirely forgotten. They overcame all the handicaps such as being deprived of feeding stuffs, manures, and the calling up of skilled workers. Now, the Government turns round and tells farmers they have been too successful and have produced far more than was expected with the result that the receipts are more than they intended them to be, so "we are going to redress the position by making the industry bear those extra outlays;" and this too at a time when expenses have increased considerably on any up-to-date figures that the Government can have. Indeed, as we have indicated before, it is very

doubtful if the Government's officials have any very reliable figures of actual costs; for these in many cases, owing to circumstances, have been abnormally heavy.

* * * *

Farmers, however, are more concerned about the breach of faith than anything else. It augurs ill for the future, for if the Government cannot stand up to a plain and verbal promise, as given and understood, what is to happen regarding post-war promises for a reasonably profitable agricultural industry? Sir Cleveland Fyfe sums up the attitude of farmers at present by stating that "They have given, and will continue to give, unswerving backing to the campaign (the food production campaign) and they deeply deplore the fact that in the fifth year of the war — on the eve of critical development in the war situation — they should have been compelled to protest publicly against what the farmers regard as the breaking of the 1940 pledge." This matter cannot be allowed to rest where it is now.

* * * *

We cannot refrain from pointing out at this moment the prophetic words uttered in the Bible. Chapter 5, verse 4 in the Epistle of James, says: "Go to now, ye rich men, weep and howl for your miseries that shall come upon you. Behold the hire of the labourers who have reaped down your fields, which is of you kept back BY FRAUD, crieth; and the cries of them which have reaped are entered into the ears of the Lord of ARMIES." (Ed. Bulletin).

* * * *

The Fallacy of "Lowering the Cost of Production" Exposed

Two interesting passages on the subject of cheap food appear in speeches made by two prominent members of the English National Farmers' Union the other week. Farmers in Scotland know only too well the effect which the craze for cheap food had upon British farming for a long period of years and particularly in the period following the last Great War and the bad effects of that policy has been brought home to many of the non-agricultural population during the present war; but whether the lesson will have any lasting effect on the non-farming community remains to be seen. Speaking at a meeting of the Somerset branch of the Union, Mr. J. K. Knowles, vice-president, said that so-called cheap food such as was dumped in our ports before the war **spelt ruin for the overseas farmers who grew it**, just as it caused stagnation and penury for the men who were not permitted to farm properly and trade sufficiently at home. He added that this cheap food — in most cases subsidised — came in as interest on our foreign investments and in payment for the subsidised exports of our heavy

industries. **We were paying less for much of the food we imported from other lands than the price paid for the same types of food by consumers in the countries that sent it to us, and "with our too-cheap food we inherited dole queues and bread lines."**

The point to be noted about this is that the **cheap food policy hurt the food producer not only in the importing country but also in the exporting countries** — the home farmers who were unable to sell their products because of cheap imports — and the overseas farmers who were producing food to sell cheap to us. Such a policy benefited only the people of the towns and cities, and the benefit to them was only of short duration since it led in the long run to more unemployment. Speaking at a meeting of farmers in Nottingham, Mr. T. Peacock, ex-president of the Union, said that political leaders in America are now telling their farmers that they will no longer be forced to sell their fertility abroad for next to nothing. "This," he said, "is a plain hint that food from abroad will be dearer to us in Britain, and for this and other reasons we shall not be in a position to feed cheaply on the fat of other lands as we did before the war." America was not our principal enemy on the cheap food front by any means. **It is hoped that other countries will adopt or be forced to adopt the example which America now appears to be giving.** Mr. Peacock pointed out that 70% of the world's population is engaged in agriculture and they must be given **purchasing power if heavy industries are to carry their trade into the colossal market which agriculture provides, and at the same time keep the townspeople in full employment.**

Yes, higher prices for the farmers means more purchasing power for everybody. Lowering the costs of production generally means the farmer's wife and family must help with the work; but — without any pay.

What the farmer needs is to have ALL costs of production charged into HIS produce and then be able to get this fair price. UNION ACTION alone will accomplish this. (Ed. Bulletin).

Notice Re Ukrainian Bulletin

Action is being taken to get the "Farmers' Herald" published. Up to now less than \$400.00 has been subscribed and our objective was \$600. However a start will be made and those who are interested in its success should send in their donations right away.

A contact will be made with Mr. Thomas Tomashavsky who will then be responsible for translating, editing and publishing it.

It is estimated that the annual subscription will be \$1.00 per year.

LIST OF NEW LOCALS

Midway Local No. 577;
 Secretary Don W. Heineman, Meadow View.
 Whitemud Local No. 578; Secretary
 Wm. Schiewe, R. R. 3, South Edmonton.
 St. Clair Local No. 579; Secretary
 E. Langlois, R. R. 3, Fort Saskatchewan.
 Rapid Creek Local No. 580; Secretary
 Herbert A. Brown, R. R. 1, Brightview.
 Lone Ridge Local No. 581;
 Secretary E. C. Garbe, Wetaskiwin.
 Unity Local No. 582;
 Secretary L. L. Beller, Wetaskiwin.
 St. Albert Local No. 583;
 Secretary H. Sumner, St. Albert.
 Reo Local No. 584;
 Secretary W. Mullins, R. R. 2, Ponoka.
 Ferry Bank Local No. 585;
 Secretary F. I. Chelstad, R. R. 4, Ponoka.
 Mount Vale Local No. 586;
 Secretary A. M. Thomson, R. R. 4, Rimbey.
 Tiger Lily Local No. 587;
 Secretary Mrs. Jennie Bullied, Campsie.
 Caroline Local No. 588;
 Secretary A. E. Sanders, Caroline.
 Rimbey Local No. 589;
 Secretary Irene E. Hohn, Rimbey.
 Danube Local No. 590;
 Secretary John Marko, Danube.
 Battle River Local No. 591;
 Secretary James C. Ford, R. R. 1, Fabyan.
 Hylo Local No. 592;
 Secretary Mike Pohalski, Hylo.
 Normandeau Local No. 593; Secretary
 Lionel Vincent, Box 18, Lac La Biche.
 Looma Local No. 594;
 Secretary A. Galli, Looma.
 Glenister Local No. 595;
 Secretary J. Harrison, Glenester.
 Forest View Local No. 596;
 Secretary B. H. Major, Forest View.
 Blueberry Local No. 597;
 Secretary John Baron, Beach Corner.
 Gimlet Local No. 598;
 Secretary J. P. Walls, R. R. 1, Eckville.
 Montagneus Valley Local No. 599;
 Secretary Roy Patton, Eureka River.
 Larkin Local No. 600;
 Secretary Mrs. H. C. Bie, Therien.
 North Pine Local No. 601;
 Evergreen Local No. 602;
 Secretary E. Marzinzik, Evergreen.
 Homeglen Local No. 603;
 Secretary John T. Burns, Homeglen.
 Fultonvale Local No. 604; Secretary
 W. H. Geary, R. R. 2, South Edmonton.
 Owlseye Local No. 605;
 Secretary Adolph Wahlgren, Owlseye.
 Loughheed Local No. 606;
 Secretary Frank Sax, Loughheed.

Glenevis Local No. 607;
 Secretary George Pegg, Glenevis.
 Kitscoty Local No. 608;
 Secretary William Fedoruk, Kitscoty.
 Elnora Local No. 609;
 Secretary W. C. Robertson, Elnora.
 Manitou Local No. 610;
 Secretary Glenn F. Park, R. R. 2, Ponoka.
 Pigeon Valley Local No. 611;
 Secretary Mrs. A. M. Ness, Falun.
 Sexsmith Local No. 612;
 Secretary B. M. Peterson, Sexsmith.
 Garden View Local No. 613;
 Secretary Lewis Burgey, Garden View.
 Elbridge Local No. 614;
 Secretary P. B. Holgate, Elbridge.
 Falun Local No. 615;
 Secretary Ed. A. Johnson, Falun.

Meeting at Leslieville

At a well attended meeting held in the Leslieville Curling Rink on the evening of Wednesday, January 26th, a Local of the A. F. U. organization was formed and the following officers were elected:

President:- Mr. T. O. Stephenson
 Vice-President:- Mr. H. Lloyd
 Sect'y-Treasurer:- Mr. Glenn Bailey
 Directors:- Mr. A. Richardson, Mr. W. Gold and Mr. F. Avrill.

The objects of the Society are:-

- The promotion of agriculture in all branches.
- To bring economic security to agriculture and to all persons engaged therein.
- To bring to the primary producer such prices for their produce as will ensure to them a decent standard of living for themselves and for their family.
- To achieve parity of prices between primary products and consumer goods.
- To affiliate with any organization in Canada having the same objects.

You'll likely be hearing from our Secretary-Treasurer Mr. Glenn Bailey. I'm only the Section Foreman here, so I declined any office as my farm barely pays its taxes. I've sent copies of this to the Calgary Albertan, the Edmonton Bulletin and the Red Deer Advocate. Thanks meantime for literature received. I saw a good account of the Convention in the "Edmonton Bulletin." We had about 30 present at our inaugural meeting and enthusiastic about organizing. We ought to be able to get a good Local here. Hope this account can find a little space in the A.F.U. Bulletin. Well here's hoping for the best and again thanking you for your help received.

Yours truly,
 Mr. San Germley,
 Box 240, Leslieville.

A. F. U. Bulletin

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Co-operation

Until the people have sufficient purchasing power to be able to buy back the fruits of their own productive labor, it is idle to talk of the success of consumer co-operation. Consumer co-operatives cannot render any service to people who are "broke" and during the terrible thirties we knew of cases where people were forced to buy at some other place than their own co-operative store in order to live.

Further, it is quite possible for a private store-keeper to be a co-operator in the best sense of the word. One who renders good service for fair returns can be classed as such. It is not necessary for farmers to take over every one else's business in order to be true-blue co-operators, any more than we would welcome a Mutual Life Insurance Company taking over all our farms.

The way we view this co-operative endeavor is that it must result in mutual benefits to all concerned, otherwise it is more or less of a fake, and therefore the objective which must be steadily held in view by all co-operators, consumers or otherwise, is that the goods and services produced must quickly find their way into the hands of the consuming public. Up to the present time this has not been done owing to the inability of the consumer to get sufficient buying power to satisfy his real wants, and this is the prime problem which consumer co-operatives as well as producer co-operatives must solve.

We are glad to note in a splendid editorial in the Co-operative News for February, that the necessity for a continually expanding view is stressed; and in which it was pointed out that as each objective is attained it should be used as a stepping stone to the next. The point was made that only in recent times are people coming to realize the tremendous possibilities of co-operative purchasing power. This is good as far as it goes; but we must go further. Existing purchasing power even though exercised co-operatively, and great though it may be, is far from sufficient to purchase the productive output in Peace-time. This is because a considerable proportion of the money income of the people has

to go to pay debt charges, interest, etc. During war time this deficiency is more than made up by the wages paid for making war goods and wages to the armed forces, but in Peace time there is no such supplementary income to pay these debt claims. Merely forming co-operatives to handle our goods will not supply this deficiency of money; but if the co-operatives will take the necessary further step and insist on their right to monetize their partons' goods in the same way as the banks now monetize their customer securities, this will supply the essential purchasing power.

Until the co-operative purchasing power of ALL the consumers is monetized so that they can make effective demand until their needs are satisfied, the co-operative objective cannot be reached. This is the next step in co-operative effort, and there is no other body of people so well equipped or so entitled to do it as our co-operatives. The Producer Co-operatives have already set up the machinery to mobilize the real wealth, i. e. the goods. All that is needed is the right to issue the medium of exchange instead of being compelled to go to the Banks and hire it from the money monopoly at an exorbitant rate of interest.

NOTICE RE RADIO BROADCASTING

We have not yet been able to make definite arrangements for a fresh series of broadcasts because up till now we cannot obtain a suitable time over stations CFRN and CFCN.

We will try other stations if necessary and are making enquiries all the time.

With regard to CFGP we are trying to make arrangements to broadcast for one month each Wednesday 1:15 - 1:30 and if this is not satisfactory we will try and obtain the original time of 8:30 - 8:45 each Wednesday evening. We are planning on commencing Wednesday, March 22nd from CFGP at 1:15 - 1:30.

RADIO FUND DONATIONS

February 9th. Brody Local No. 92.....	\$10.00
February 11th. Prairie Echo Local No. 257	1.00
February 14th. Picardville Local No. 104.....	20.00
February 16th. Prairie Echo Local No. 257	.50
February 16th. Enchant Local No. 495.....	25.00
February 16th. Radway Local No. 150.....	15.00
Feb'y 19th. Spruce Coulee Local No. 557	5.00
February 19th. Miss Edith Hanson, Viking,	
Personal donation	1.65
February 22nd. Baldonnel Local No. 302.....	1.00
February 22nd. James River Local No. 531	30.00
February 25th. Two Hills Local No. 14.....	7.75
Feb'y 26th. Mr. Joe Munson, Mission, B. C.	5.00
February 28th. Mr. A. Dunn.....	.50
March 4th. Peaceful Valley Local No. 553	5.00

Why Renew the Bank Charters?

The following reprint of a speech by Mr. "Gerry" McGeer taken from the Edmonton Bulletin of the 29th of February, shows the deadly peril into which Canada is heading. The fact that Mr. McGeer is a Liberal and that the Liberal Party is responsible for the policy which he is attacking, should awaken every citizen to a sense of our responsibilities. Here is proof that "party" government is not satisfactory. The Liberal party is not carrying out the promises which Mr. McKenzie King pledged them to do and which Mr. McGeer is urging them to do. If the People want THEIR wishes carried out they must be prepared to exert such pressure upon their members of Parliament as will compel them to carry out the people's wishes.

A Union of Farmers for Agriculture.

A Union of Workers for the Trades, Industries and occupations and

A Federation of Electors for ALL the People in order to FORCE all governments to give the PEOPLE what the people want.

Gerald G. McGeer, K.C. (L., Vancouver Burrard), speaking on monetary reform in the House of Commons, Monday, warned that "no government could survive under the present financial system."

Mr. McGeer told the House that when the Bank of Canada became a publicly-owned, nationally administered institution, it was a great step towards finding solutions for all supply problems. He asserted, however, that much more is needed to nationalize its policy, and change it "from a filling station for the chartered banks into an institution of national service that will truly accomplish the purpose of issuing national currency and credit in terms of public need, and not private gain.

Cites Report By Graham Towers

Mr. McGeer cited a report by Graham Towers, governor of the Bank of Canada, that during 1943 Canadian deposit liabilities of the chartered banks had increased \$748,000,000. "That," he said, "was new money, created by the chartered banks by merely writing up bank deposit entries in their books and exchanging them for interest-bearing bonds."

The total active note circulation, including Bank of Canada notes, had risen \$161,000,000 in the year, making the total expansion of the volume of money \$909,000,000. Cash reserves of the chartered banks rose \$83,000,000 in the year and most of the expansion was necessary to maintain

the cash-ratio position of the banks in view of the \$748,000,00 increase in their deposit liabilities.

"I believe it means that the Bank of Canada has issued into circulation, which circulation eventually came into the possession of the chartered banks, \$82,000,000 of Bank of Canada legal tender bills," said Mr. McGeer. "With that \$82,000,000, the banks were able to increase their deposits up to \$820,000,000 and did increase them up to \$748,000,000.

Cold Subsidy To Chartered Banks

"Here we have a national bank institution owned by the people of Canada, issuing Canadian legal tender money as a cold subsidy to our chartered banks, and with that subsidy of cash, which is the biggest subsidy any monopoly ever received, they are manufacturing in their own banks the means of buying Canadian government interest-bearing bonds.

"Was there ever such a device and system devised and sustained by sane men for the wreck of government and the benefit of private enterprise?"

Mr. Towers' report should be considered by the house banking and commerce committee, he said.

Complete Text of Address

Following is the complete text of Mr. McGeer's address to the House:

Mr. Speaker, I had thought, during the last period of time since war was declared that those in the minority like myself, who hold rather strong views on certain reforms, would be well advised to defer the pushing of them forward until the greater and more immediate task of defeating the enemy were accomplished. I have been accused on a good many occasions of failing to follow the course of reform which started before the banking and commerce committee of 1934 and I am afraid, at times, followed a little too vigorously by myself, until the Bank of Canada became a publicly owned, nationally administered institution.

I think that that was a great step towards finding solutions of all our supply problems, but I still believe that I have to go much further and to nationalize the policy of the Bank of Canada, and change it from a filling station to the chartered banks into an institution of national service that will truly accomplish the purpose of issuing national currency and national credit in terms of

public need and not in terms of private gain.

Now I rise, Mr. Speaker, today solely for the purpose of drawing to the attention of my colleagues in this house a document which I believe is probably the most significant and far reaching that has been published this year.

Great Importance Seen in Report

It is the report for 1943 of the Governor of the Bank of Canada. I believe it is important because, if you will take the time to read of the preamble of the Bank of Canada Act, you will find that it is established as a public utility charged with the responsibility of sustaining and advancing and expanding and regulating the economic life of the government and people of this nation.

Now, what Mr. Towers has to say from the position which he holds and the access which he alone has to the information which is available, should make any pronouncement by him one of the utmost importance not only to parliament but to everyone in the Dominion. Let me deal with just one or two of the statements.

At Page 5 you will find a statement of the change in our national debt situation. He points out that our national debt from August 31, 1939, has risen from \$4,693,000,000 to \$11,302,000,000 on December 1, 1943. That is the federal debt only.

Shows Increase of \$6,609,000,000

It shows an increase of \$6,609,000,000 and carries with it an increase in annual interest charges from \$169,000,000 to \$304,000,000 a year. Later on in the report Mr. Towers sweetens that interest charge of \$304,000,000 by pointing out that we might consider it reduced by offsetting the earnings of the Foreign Exchange Control Board, earnings of the Bank of Canada, and earnings of such institutions as our national harbors.

But, no matter what you set off against it, the fact is that the interest charge has been increased \$304,000,000 a year which means that over the next decade the men who are fighting and the men who are working to win this war and the youth of today must find \$3,040,000,000 for interest charges alone.

In a decade, I said. Yes, if people would think in terms of years when they think of interest they would probably be more concerned about its ultimate consequences.

What does Mr. Towers say about that debt situation? On page 11 of the report he says:

"I do not wish to suggest that public debt could be increased at the present rate for an indefinite period without placing intolerable strain on our country. I do feel, however, that the war debt and the increases which will inevitably take

place for a time after the war ends, can be handled without serious embarrassment."

Can't Tell When War Will End

Neither Mr. Towers nor any man alive today can tell when this war is going to end. I believe we have every reason to be confident that victory is certain. Certainly the war power of Germany is declining while the war power of the United Nations is steadily advancing. But no one can be certain as to when Germany can be brought to unconditional surrender, if this war is going to be prosecuted with a due regard for the unnecessary sacrifice of the lives and the suffering of the men in our own fighting forces.

Intolerable Strain

How then can the governor of the Bank of Canada give any assurance that the debt can be carried without embarrassment? Already the debt load of this war is placing an intolerable strain upon the economy of the nation. There is one other feature in connection with that phase of our reconstruction that I must keep in mind, and that is during the last war there were accumulations of reserve. We have imposed a policy of taxation during this war deliberately designed to take away from the people, from business organizations, all forms of profit. That too will place a heavy strain upon the exchequer of national, provincial and municipal governments in the reconstruction period.

In addition to that, our municipalities and provinces with their limited revenues, although they have some reserves accumulated from deferred maintenance and war expenditures, are not in the same position to expand their debts as they were after the last war ended.

What does Mr. Towers say? He reviews, as every man who thinks on the subject at all must do, the greater problems of demobilization. The men to be demobilized, and the women, from our fighting forces are not of the same type that came back from the last war. Our air force is made up very largely if not almost entirely, in the flying forces, of men of the officer and non-commissioned officer class, and the ground forces are men who are highly-trained and highly-skilled mechanics. In our navy the same problem, probably not so intense, is to be found, while our armed forces are men largely trained in the skill of operating highly-mechanized organizations.

Living Standards Raised

All of these forces have had their standards of living in the army greatly raised above what they were during the last war. It is not going to be easy to find the kind of employment that will be acceptable to them as it was at the end

of the last war, and the problem is infinitely greater.

We have also the problem of an industrial army who have found the highest standards of pay and the best working conditions in the most modern factories. Hundreds of thousands of them will not only be looking for employment of a similar kind but will be unhappy if they have to move down into some category of employment that is inferior.

Therefore when Mr. Towers says that we can look forward to carrying our war debt and the post-war costs and costs of reconstruction without embarrassment and without placing an intolerable strain upon the economy of our nation, he is moving in the realm not of factual statement but of purely theoretical speculation. Mr. Towers takes that situation and leaves it upon the doorstep of the Government, upon the doorstep of parliament, because in his conclusion this is what he says:

Need Bold Planning

The adjustments required will clearly be of unprecedented magnitude, and bold planning on the part of labor, farm and business organizations as well as the government is urgently needed.

Now when the governor of the Bank of Canada tells this government and this parliament and the people of the Dominion of Canada that they face adjustments of unprecedented magnitude and that bold planning is urgently required, he makes a statement which I believe we in this House of Commons cannot ignore and should not delay in acting upon.

Financing Methods

But there is one other thing to which I would call the attention of members of the House and of my colleagues, and that is the method of financing which we have developed, because I believe that, in owning the Bank of Canada we have demonstrated that we have an institution of inestimatable value, already proven, and one which can prove of greater value in the difficult days that lie ahead. Yes, there are difficult days ahead, not impossible, but they are going to require the best of economic understanding, good judgement and statesmanship to see us through.

Mr. Towers at Page 6 says that during 1943 Canadian deposit liabilities of the chartered banks increased \$748,000,000. That was new money created by the chartered banks by merely writing up bank deposit entries in their books and exchanging them for interest-bearing bonds.

Now he says that the total active circulation, including Bank of Canada notes, rose by \$161,000,000 making the total expansion in the volume of money, therefore \$909,000,000. And he goes on to review some of the things the gov-

ernment has bought, but he does not give us a clear statement of what has been purchased by the chartered banks of Canada.

However, he comes along with this statement, that the cash reserves of the chartered banks rose \$82,000,000 during the year, as shown in the table on Page 1. Most of the expansion was necessary to maintain the cash ratio position of the chartered banks in view of the \$748,000,000 increase in their Canadian deposit liabilities referred to above.

Now what does that mean? I believe it means that the Bank of Canada has issued into circulation, which circulation eventually came into the possession of the chartered banks, \$82,000,000 of Bank of Canada legal tender bills.

Deposits Increased

With that \$82,000,000 the banks were able to increase their deposits up to \$820,000,000 and did increase them up to \$748,000,000. You see what is happening.

Here we have a national bank institution owned by the people of Canada, issuing Canadian legal tender money as a cold subsidy to our chartered banks, and with that subsidy of cash, which is the biggest subsidy any monopoly ever received, they are manufacturing in their own books the means of buying Canadian government interest-bearing bonds.

That could have the meaning of — at least what I always thought was the meaning of — issuing currency and credit in terms of private gain. That is the fundamental basis of our whole banking system that must be changed before government, possessing as constitutional right and power and responsibility, can move along the fields of solvency and away from bankruptcy that this false debt claim system will impose upon us.

"Tragedy" in States

Let me say this: We have seen the tragedy in the republic to the south of us in the last few days. We have seen a president guided by the experts of the treasury board finding upon his hands at this critical period the greatest revolt of the congress of the United States against bureaucracy and against obligarchy that has ever been recorded.

President Roosevelt is the victim of the same bad advice, the same unfortunate advice that brought Winston Churchill to disaster when he was chancellor of the British Exchequer from 1925 to 1929.

Standing on the floor of the House of Commons in 1932 and 1936, he pointed out that he took full responsibility for the tragedy that had happened during that period; but he said that he had acted upon the advice of the monetary

experts of England, who had assured him that in the policies they proposed they were returning to reality and stability.

Acknowledged Error

Yes, Churchill in his happy ability to acknowledge an error when he makes it, said: "I made a mistake. I was the last of the orthodox chancellors of the exchequer. Look upon me as the last of the Mohicans."

When that kind of thing goes on and if we, as a Liberal government, find ourselves out of tune with the people of Canada today, it is largely because of the encroachment of financial authority over administrative ability that is shaking the confidence of the people, not in our ability to win the war, but in our ability to sustain full employment at any other time than when we are fighting a war.

I wish to say this, Mr. Speaker, I hope this document will be considered by the prime minister (Mackenzie King), and the minister of finance (Mr. Ilesley), as a document that should go at once to the banking and commerce committee; because if the governor of the Bank of Canada can warn the government of Canada, the Canadian parliament and the people of Canada that he finds that adjustments of unprecedented magnitude are required and that able planning in urgent need, we should have at the service of this parliament and the government all the information that Mr. Towers has to justify that statement.

Saving Few Millions

Let me say to you that all the good work the committee on war expenditures is doing — it is saving a few million dollars — comes to naught when you remember that all the while the whole nation is engaged in war this false system is mulcting the nation not in millions, but in billions of dollars.

No government can survive, no minister of finance can succeed to carry on under this system, and the sooner we come to a realization of what we meant in 1935 when we said we would establish a Bank of Canada and give it power, and see that the powers were enforced, to issue currency and credit in terms of public need, the better.

I believe that we are close to the day when that will come about; that instead of lending our medium of exchange through the debt claim system, we will be spending the medium of exchange required to sustain the economy of the nation in balanced proportions free from the debt system. Then, Mr. Speaker, we will find that debt, unpayable debt, will cease to bind the health and the freedom of the people.

A splendid speech was delivered in the House of Commons by an airman, just returned from overseas. It has been dealt with in the Western Producer and we reprint their article for the benefit of our readers.

When the Boys Come Home

The most valuable contribution made to the debate on the speech from the throne in the Canadian house of commons came from Flight-Lieutenant James Sinclair, Liberal M. P. for North Vancouver. Mr. Sinclair is a young man just returned from three years' active service with the R. C. A. F. in Britain and the Middle East. His speech lacked nothing in power from the fact that it was couched in moderate, temperate language. It gained rather than lost because he spoke as a government supporter for that seemed in no way to modify the case which he was putting before the house and the country. Anyone interested in the problems of re-establishing returning servicemen should secure a copy of Hansard for Monday, February 7, 1944, where they may read the speech in full; here we touch only on a few of its points.

Mr. Sinclair told the house of a little meeting held at dusk on a forward landing field. This gathering, called by the squadron with which he was serving for the discussion of post war problems, was attended by both ground and air crews. It was impressive and very interesting. From it emerged much of the material contained in Mr. Sinclair's speech.

The speaker prefaced his more detailed statement with these words:

"These men do not want charity or pity in the way of being given a hand-out. All they want is the same fighting chance in peace time as they are now taking for their country in war time."

He then proceeded step by step to examine what is now being done or proposed to be done for returned service personnel and what they themselves believe should be done. It was a revealing analysis which should be a guide or perhaps a warning to the country and the government. There was no exaggerated demands. A minimum, reasonable standard of treatment was expected — a standard which the soldiers have every intention of securing. Without threat or bluster the case was built on a foundation of simple justice and in our opinion an overwhelming majority of Canadians will be convinced by it.

There has been a disposition on the part of government spokesmen in meeting criticism to advance as their trump card the boast that Canada is treating her returning men more generously than any other nation. In summing up one section of his address Mr. Sinclair spiked this contention very neatly when he said:

"No Canadian at home should accept the excuse that what we are doing is more than any other country is doing. There is only one standard: to our own selves be true. Give these men the one thing they are asking for, the same fighting chance in training for peace that we gave them when we were training them for war. I therefore propose that a basic sum of \$75.00 a month be paid, plus standard service allowance to wife and children, plus medical and dental care at the nearest military establishment, for the duration of the period of rehabilitation. This is still less than the trainee taking elementary training gets, but it will give the returned soldier a fighting chance. That is all he wants."

We on the prairies both for the sake of agriculture and for the sake of our own young men, so many of whom are farmers, are particularly interested in soldier land settlement. We feel justified in quoting at some length from Mr. Sinclair's remarks on this subject especially since what he had to say was on the whole so sensible and to the point: Here it is:

"I do not know very many airmen who are proposing to go on the land after this war. That may be because farm life is unsuitable after service in the air force. It may be because they remember too well soldier settlement after the last war. **It may be because they remember too well the plight of experienced farmers before the present war.**

"Those who are going on the land expect three conditions to be fulfilled. First, that the land be suitable. They are not going to try to raise crops on barren acres. Second, that it be cleared. No British Columbia boy is going to spend the rest of his life trying to tear up British Columbia stumps by hand. Third, that the land be accessible to market.

"I have two observations on finance. Every soldier, sailor or airman who reads page 13, and continues to read until he finds that the ex-service man must make a down payment to the government of ten percent of the cost of the land, or \$480, and that this down payment must be made prior to the receipt of any financial assistance, is going to say, 'Where the blank am I going to get a down payment of \$480?' Out of their savings or their war pay of one dollar and one-half a day? No. Out of this gratuity of \$45 in all that the government is proposing to pay? No. From our chartered banks or money lenders? No. Where? It may well bother them. It is bothering, I know, many soldiers, sailors and airmen.

"I had thought that in view of the experience in soldier settlement after the last war, the government's approach would be a little different. I do not like making statements

without figures, but I am quite sure that if all the cost of land settlement board and administration and legal costs and surveys and royal commissions were added up, the total would vastly overshadow the actual returns. I therefore propose that any soldier who is still farming his land after five years be given his farm outright. This would save the government money; it would give the soldier a real incentive to farm, and it would mean the end of at least one war board after the war, because five years after the end of the war the work of the land board would automatically end, not drearily drag on for twenty-five years as has the present land board."

There is only one point in this statement on which we would elaborate at this time and that is the sentence which we have emphasized: "It may be because they remember too well the plight of experienced farmers before the present war." It may indeed be so and the aspiring soldier settler will be well advised not to forget it. For no land settlement scheme, not even a free gift of land and equipment, will avail if the condition of agriculture is such that not even experienced farmers can make a living in it.

Therein is the nub of the whole matter — the general condition of the farming industry. The framers of the present Veteran's Land Act seem to have paid no attention to this. Although they protest that their proposals are infinitely better than those of the old Soldier Settlement Board they are in fact modelled on the former scheme with some of the cruder edges rubbed off. We contend that in evolving any serious settlement plan competent working farmers should have a major part both for their experience and because they as individuals and their industry are seriously concerned. In addition actual settlers under the old scheme should be called upon for the valuable contribution which their bitter experience has so equipped them to render. Finally, no government which takes a serious view of its responsibilities will ever undertake to settle tens of thousands of young men on farms unless and until the domestic economy of Canada is so recast that the average man may be reasonably assured that with average industry and ability he can extract a satisfactory living from the soil.

Personal donation from Mr. Sam Pearce, Meeting Creek, for organization purposes \$26.50

— CORRECTION —

In our list of radio donations the following error was made:

Jan'y 28th. N. Polischuk, Peno Local No. 45 \$10.00; should be Jan. 28th. N. Polischuk, Olesko Local No. 177, \$10.00.

The Farmers' Cash Income

(Taken from the Searle Grain Co. Report)

"The farmers' cash income has steadily risen since the war started. Many believe that this income is far greater than our farmers have ever received before. Here, however, are the facts:

For the four years of this war 1940-43 inclusive, the average annual farm income for **all Canadian farmers** has been 1,033 million dollars, but for the four years 1926-29 inclusive, the average annual income was 966 million dollars (the cost of the things farmers had to buy was approximately the same during the two periods). It will be observed, therefore, that Canadian farmers during this war have been on the average about 7% better off than they were during the years 1926-29. This is for **ALL Canada**. Our farmers in the three prairie provinces have not fared as well. **Their average annual income for the four war years has been 469 million dollars, whereas for the four years 1926-29 it was 538 million dollars, or 13% less during these war years than it was during the period 1926-29."**

It will be noted from these figures that Western farmers are not yet getting "Parity." We are not yet getting collectively as much as we received in the period 1926-29. While that period is acceptable as a Basis for Parity, yet the higher costs of production which have occurred since, make it necessary for prices of farm produce to be raised in proportion in order to maintain Parity.

The Double Count

"Some persons who are discussing the farmers' income, and attempting to show that it is very high, are falling into the error of quoting "the value of agricultural production" instead of "the farmers' actual cash income."

There is a great difference between these two sets of figures. The value of the agricultural production in Canada for the year 1942, for instance, is given officially as 2,086 million dollars, whereas the cash income accruing to Canadian farmers — which is the thing that really matters — for that same year was only 1,083 million dollars. Similarly for the year 1943 the value of agricultural production for Alberta is given officially as 347 million dollars, whereas the cash income for Alberta farmers for the same year was only 223 million dollars.

The main reason for the much higher figures for the "value of production," as distinct from "cash income," lies in the fact that the value of all grains, roots and fodder crops, and in addition the value of all livestock to which much of those grains and probably all the root and fodder crops are fed, are all included in the "value of production" totals, so that one has here

what is technically termed "the double count"; just as though one added together in one total the value of wheat, then of the flour made from the wheat, then of the bread made from the flour.

So misleading is this "double count" total figure that we ourselves doubt the virtue of either the Dominion or our province publishing as one figure the "total value of production," for the truth is such total value never actually does exist. (One part of it must be consumed to make up the other part). Such a total of the value of production is, therefore, misleading to those who are not well familiar with the make-up of the published tables."

NOTICE

The Radway Local was organized February 20th, 1943 with 19 members at the first meeting and at the end of the year our local had 60 paid up members, but so far only 70% of the farmers are organized in this community.

Also during the year a Livestock Shipping Association was organized by our local and is functioning very well in the interest of the farmers of this locality.

The Radway Local Executive wishes to thank the members of the neighboring locals as Myrtle Creek, Eldorena, Weasel Creek and Val Soucy for their hearty support to our Shipping Association. Good work fellow farmers what is done, is done for your benefit, and with your support we can accomplish something worth-while.

Sent in by Mr. Fred Yurkiw, Secretary of Radway Local No. 150.

Bashaw, Alberta. March 4th, 1944.

Mr. Nichols:-

Just a line or two to let you know that our Local No. 496 is still more than alive. We have had a wonderful meeting the other night. When I say alive, I mean it.

Two of our members were out to get new members and they really went and did it. I think it is really worth while putting in the A. F. U. paper. So other locals will see what can be done. If some one takes time off to do it.

Mrs. S. H. Sharp came in with 51 members, Mr. Tom Dezouger had 8 and I, myself as a pinch hitter had 4. All total of 63.

Let's hear from some other Local who can beat it as this was for one month's work. We have organized this Local just one year ago and we stand with a grand total of 261 members.

Just one word to other locals and members. Let's get out and work and we will get there — the sooner the better.

Yours truly,

Wm. Furest, Sec'y Manfred Local No. 496,
Bashaw, Alberta.

WHEAT NUMBER ?

1. The guy who did the threshing said t'would go a number one
But this I rather doubted as it slowly down did run
Then the neighbors round did gather, as you know they love to do
And they shouted in a chorus "It's a darn good number two."
2. On the way I met the Banker, waiting hopefully for me
And after meditation he pronounced it number three
So getting quite impatient I departed on the run
And by sneaking past some other guys, the elevator won.
3. There the buyer looked it over, put a handful in his cheek
Spat it out across the drive-way and to me did kindly speak:
"It's a four, of that I'm certain; better ship it right away
For I wouldn't care to buy it as the market's down today."
4. So I told him just to ship it to the East or to the West,
To Timbuktoo or Ballyhoo, where e'er it seemed the best;
Then I sat me down in patience to await that joyful day
When for all my earnest labours I'd receive a little pay.
5. Soon there came a tiny missive by the early morning mail,
And I staggered in my anger e're I lay me down to wail
Sure that grader was a creature who could use a farmer rough
For in his utter blindness, he did make it five and tough!
6. Wrathful at the Fierce injustice re-inspection I did claim;
And I pawned my Sunday top-coat to provide the cost of same
Came the answer in a fortnight, raising heck within my camp
For I fainted when I read it: "Re inspection — six and damp."

Sent in by A. Milsap.

By T. Long Botham in Bassano Mail.

FORECLOSURE

Again the fallow lies bare of the snow;

The winged heralds of spring-time that twittering go
To 'wake dormant life in each slumb'ring bough

Strive vainly to hearten The Serf at the plough.

Reluctant he sows that his Masters may reap,

Knows — — The Greater the yield — — The Less he may keep;
Grudgingly spares from his pittance the seed

And, disconsolate, tills for the Harvest of Greed.

Time was when this spiritless Oaf dreamed a dream,

A tiny free-hold was the gist of its theme,
Upon which to build a roof-tree, inornate,

To shelter his children and fond faithful mate;

Nor thought as he labored with purpose unswerved

That he need be either The Servant or Served;

That ruthless to grasp and callous of Creed

Must be he who would share in the Harvest of Greed.

With a smirk the fat Usurer tendered The Loan,

With a fat, oily smirk — — and a dream, all his own;
Then proceeded the poor stupid Serf to enfold

In a gill-net of Silver with Sinkers of Gold;

Since the metaphor's vague — — know — — in fishing for pelf

That a Sinker of Gold anchors ALL to itself — — —

Be the Catch large or scant — — great or small be the Need

'Twill serve best for The Usurer's Harvest of Greed.

Now, though the fallow lies bare of the snow

The winged heralds of spring-time that twittering go

To 'wake dormant life in each slumb'ring bough

Are unheard by The Serf who follows the plough;

Lethargic, he sows that his Masters may reap,

Knows — — The Greater the yield — — The Less he may keep;

Grudgingly spares from his pittance the seed

And, disconsolate, tills for the Harvest of Greed.

M. W. C.

From M. D. Robertson, Calahoo, Alta.
January 29th, 1944.

Whereas our first meeting was organized on the above date and was dissolved without any thanks being offered to our speakers.

We, the local A. F. U., hereby wish to forward and publish our entire thanks to the speakers present for this meeting, namely to Mr. Jackson, President of the A. F. U., and Mr. George Bevington, Director; also thanks to our secretary for co-operating in this movement, as we were quite successful in forming a good local. Mr. Thatcher, President; Mr. North, Vice-Pres.; M. D. Robertson, Sect'y-Treasurer, and our Board of Directors, namely John Berry, E. Burbe, S. M. Walker, E. Hoefle and Ed Willis as utility director. The local now on second meeting has some 32 members and much favorable interest has now been taken in this local union with another meeting being called for March 4th in U. F. A. Hall, Calahoo, and quite a further number of members will join.

Purebred Registered Yorkshires

Weanlings, bred and open gilts, boars. The kind that will grade "A" and bring you a premium. The best is none too good for a Union member. Come and make your own selection.

P. H. ASHBY & SON,
Route 3, South Edmonton.

GET IT FROM A.F.U. BULLETIN

The Only Farmers Union Paper in Alberta
This Form is for Your Convenience —
Mail It Today

A. F. U. BULLETIN,
206 Agency Building, Edmonton, Alberta.

Dear Sir,

Enclosed please find 50 cents for one year (25c for six months) Subscription to the A. F. U. Bulletin.

NAME (Print) _____

ADDRESS _____

In Lighter Vein

This parody is based on the current hit "Pistol Packing Mamma" by Al. Dexter, and can be sung to the same tune.

The farmer's wife is working
From dawn to setting sun
She cooks the chow and milks the cow
It keeps her on the run.

Chorus:

So take that pistol down folks,
Take that pistol down.
The time has come for action
Now take that pistol down.

She gathers all the eggs in
And scrubs them with a rag.
She figured in the morning
The price was in the bag.

Before the day was over
Don Gordon saw the clue.
He gathered up his pencil
Determined what to do.

He said: "I'll put a ceiling
The upward price to stay;
I'll never place a bottom
The gag is clear as day."

It must have been that evening
He made a solemn vow:
"I'll never raise the farmer's price
Without an awful row."

Most prices are inflated;
Don Gordon's head is too.
The farmer's dollar waist line
Still stands at twenty-two.

When the war is over
And prices hit the floor,
The farmer will be bankrupt
And broke forever more.

The time has come for action
From dawn to setting sun.
If farmers join the Union,
Don Gordon's on the run.

Last Chorus:

So take your pistols down, folks;
Take those pistols down.
The time has come for Union;
Now take those pistols down.

N. B. Davidson.

The A. F. U. Local No. 30 of Bellis, sponsored a banquet in the Farmers' Hall on January 11th at which about 300 members and guests were present. A collection was made which amounted to \$9.50. It was decided that the following donations be made: Donation to English Bulletin \$4.50; donation to Ukrainian Bulletin \$5.00. Please find Money Order covering above amount. Yours truly,

Geo. Nykolaychuk, President.